

**Message for U.S. Citizens
Emergency Message
U.S. Embassy Belmopan, Belize**

October 25, 2011

Hurricane Rina – Emergency Message #2

This Message is being issued as a second alert to U.S. citizens residing and traveling in Belize to the potential dangers posed by Hurricane Rina.

The National Hurricane Center reports that Hurricane Rina is located near latitude 17.4 north, longitude 84.3 west. Hurricane Rina is moving toward the west at 3 mph (6km/h). A turn to the west-northwest direction is expected this evening followed by a turn to the north. Maximum sustained winds are near 110 mph or 175 km/h with higher gusts. Hurricane Rina is currently a category two hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale, but is expected to further strengthen. The center of Hurricane Rina is predicted to make landfall in the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula between Wednesday evening and Thursday morning; however, the hurricane's trajectory may change potentially affecting Belize.

The Belize National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) suspended all evacuation services from all the cayes, including the tourist locations of San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, and Caye Caulker, effective 5:00 p.m. today, October 25, 2011. U.S. citizens seeking evacuation from the cayes should check with local airlines Tropic Air and Maya Air for updated commercial flight information. Commercial flights from San Pedro and Caye Caulker to mainland Belize, as well international flights from Belize City, are still scheduled for departure October 26, 2011.

U.S. citizens are urged to locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all times (i.e. U.S. Passport, birth certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that U.S. citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

For continued updates on Hurricane Rina, residents and travelers are advised to monitor the storm at www.nhc.noaa.gov or www.nemo.org.bz. Additional media reports may be found at Channel 5 News Belize (<http://www.channel5belize.com/>), Channel 7 News Belize (<http://www.7newsbelize.com/>), and the Belize Tourism Industry Association, <http://btia.org/>.

U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad are encouraged to enroll in our Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security. Americans without Internet access may register in person with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency.

For emergencies involving American citizens in Belize, please contact the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan. The U.S. Embassy is located in Belmopan City on Floral Park Road, telephone from the United States: 011-501-822-4011; telephone from within Belize: 822-4011 or after working hours at either 610-5030. You may also contact the Embassy by e-mail at: ACSbelize@state.gov. The Embassy's Internet address is <http://www.belize.usembassy.gov/>.